

1 because that's how you can spread your influence.

2 That's how you can get the information that can be
3 gotten efficiently, quickly, and thoroughly.

4 Thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Mr. Cornelius.

6 MR. CORNELIUS: Ms. James, Commission, I'm
7 a guest safety officer at Harrah's in Atlantic City,
8 and I would like to thank everyone concerned for the
9 opportunity to tell my story.

10 I was born and raised in Atlantic City and
11 have seen many positive things in the past 18 years
12 since the beginning of the casino industry. Before
13 the opening of the casinos, I worked in factories for
14 low wages, including a job as a presser in a clothing
15 factory. Most of these factories closed down,
16 including mine, and I was unemployed.

17 There was not an industry left in Atlantic
18 City to work in. Luckily for me, I found the Atlantic
19 Cape May Private Industry Council, a nonprofit
20 organization that was providing training for new jobs,
21 including those in the new casino industry.

22 After attending a ten-week class to learn

1 about security, I was hired by Harrah's of Atlantic
2 City as a security officer. My career at Harrah's has
3 been very rewarding. I have been named Employee of
4 the Month. I was even nominated for our most
5 prestigious Corporate Chairman Award, but most of all,
6 thanks to my work at Harrah's, I am now earning more
7 money than I ever made in my life, and I've been able
8 to purchase a home, a new car, and to care for my
9 family, and to help raise my 46 year old sister who
10 was born with Down's Syndrome.

11 I've also learned valuable people skills
12 that I lacked prior to attending Harrah's training
13 classes.

14 Because I've been so fortunate to have
15 such a good job and a good life, I've even been able
16 to give something back to the community. I serve in
17 a group of people, which I was one of the original
18 members, which is called Operation HELP. That means
19 Harrah's Employees Love People, which stands for just
20 that. There are over 100 of us in this group, and we
21 assist the needy, the elderly, the homeless, and the
22 less fortunate in our community.

1 I am proud of what I have achieved as a
2 person, and it's thanks to Harrah's Casino and my job
3 in the casino industry.

4 Thank you for listening to my story.

5 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you.

6 Martha Young.

7 Brenda Flanagan.

8 MR. FLANAGAN: I'm Brendan Flanagan.

9 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Brendan. All right.
10 I apologize, Mr. Flanagan.

11 MR. FLANAGAN: No problem.

12 Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen of
13 the Commission. My name is Brendan Flanagan, and I
14 represent the Restaurant Association of Maryland, a
15 trade association representing over 2,400 businesses
16 throughout the State of Maryland.

17 I'm here to share with you just a few of
18 the association's key findings which led us to oppose
19 casino gambling after four years of extensive
20 research.

21 We concluded casinos would be a bad bet
22 for both our state and our regional economy after